

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 11 (canceled).

12. (currently amended) ~~The An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 10~~  
~~comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a persephin polypeptide wherein the persephin~~  
~~polypeptide~~

(a) comprises an amino acid sequence which contains amino acids at positions  
indicated in parentheses: Cys(1), Leu(3), Val(10), Leu(13), Gly(14), Leu(15), Gly(16), Tyr(17),  
Glu(21), Phe(25), Arg(26), Tyr(27), Cys(28), Gly(30), Cys(32), Leu(44), Leu(47), Cys(58),  
Cys(59), Pro(61), Asp(66), Phe(69), Leu(70), Asp(71), Ser(83), Ala(84), Cys(87), and Cys(89),  
said positions being identified by alignment with SEQ ID NO:223.

(b) has at least % sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:223, and

(c) promotes survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.

wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:199 or SEQ ID NO:201.

13 - 27 (canceled).

28. (currently amended) ~~The An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 10~~  
~~comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a persephin polypeptide, wherein the persephin~~  
~~polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:223, and wherein the persephin polypeptide promotes~~  
~~survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.~~

29. (currently amended) ~~The An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 10~~  
~~comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a persephin polypeptide, wherein the persephin~~  
~~polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:221, and wherein the persephin polypeptide promotes~~  
~~survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.~~

30 - 41 (canceled).

42. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence fully complementary to the nucleotide sequence of claim 12.

43 – 45 (canceled).